

surface of the Moon. And who can forget "The Eagle has landed." It was exciting for all of us who really believed in the greatness of America, but also the peace that America generated.

And then on July 20, 1969, when Neil Armstrong took his first step on the Moon, he became the first person to walk on the surface of another celestial body. We know his famous words that, in fact, as I paraphrase them, one step for man and one giant step for mankind.

And so we recognize how important it is to celebrate 40 years, because we want there to be another 40 years of NASA, to recognize the economic arm that it presents, to recognize the value of the inquisitiveness of scientists, mathematicians, doctors, those who are engaged in the business of exploration and human challenges.

Astronauts have come from all walks of life. They've happened to be my neighbors. We've lost some in Columbia and Challenger. We mourn for their families, but we celebrate their families and thank them for their sacrifice because we recognize that this is a time that we are now to pay tribute to them by continuing our work with NASA.

How excited we are to have retired General Charles Bolden to be the new NASA administrator, a former astronaut, the first African American, a Houstonian in the years that he lived there.

And so we celebrate and hope that this inspiration goes into the nooks and crannies of prekindergarten, kindergarten, primary, secondary education, college, graduate school. Let us send forth more astronauts, chemists, physicists, biologists, doctors, mechanical engineers, engineers, all of the people that can help us discover a peaceful way to live in this wonderful universe. That's what Apollo 11 was all about. Showing us that it is a place of peace, the Moon, that we can explore, we can find out information, we can make lives better for Americans and others around the world.

I always believed in the international space station. As a member of the Science Committee, I was able to craft legislation to create a safety scheme, if you will, to ensure that the international space station is safe. We see now that there are constant checks and constant emphasis on ensuring the safety of this particular large building in space, if you will, the size of large football fields. We know that that is important, even to the extent of fixing a toilet.

So, Madam Speaker, I rise to support and to salute Buzz Aldrin, the lunar module pilot; Michael Collins, the command module pilot; and Neil Armstrong, the mission commander, who understood what it was to make this giant step.

His other words as well, as we came in peace for all of mankind, that should be the mantra, the standard, the medal, if you will, the heart of NASA

as we explore: We come in peace for all of mankind.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INGLIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE IRANIAN PEOPLE'S PEACEFUL STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, the Iranian people's peaceful struggle for freedom continues despite the tyrannical regime's barbarous crackdown. In fact, in his Friday's sermon, former President Rafsanjani called into question legitimacy of the present government and rebuked the regime for its crackdown on peaceful protesters and its cavalier rejection of the cries that the election was stolen.

Finally, former President Rafsanjani called upon the regime to free and fully account for all those peaceful freedom seekers who have been arrested in the repression. Then, on Sunday, former President Khatami called for a referendum on the legitimacy of the Iranian regime and asked that the results be tallied by an objective independent Iranian body to ensure its accuracy.

This led the current opposition, Presidential candidate Hossein Mousavi, to say, You are facing something new, an awakened nation, a nation that has been born again and is here to defend its achievements. Arrests won't put an end to this problem. End this game as soon as possible and return to the nation its arrested sons.

While humanity agrees, Supreme Leader Khamenei disagrees. And to leaders who both tacitly and expressly support the freedom seekers in Iran, Khamenei issued this warning. The elite should be watchful since they have been faced with a big test. Failing the test will cause their collapse.

I'd ask Supreme Leader Khamenei to look at this picture. Her name is Taraneh Mousavi. She was arrested near Ghoba Mosque, where she was on her way to attend hairdressing college. After her arrest, she was raped, sodomized and tortured by her captors, taken to a hospital in a coma, and it was there that she died. Upon her death, her body was removed to the outskirts of Karaj Qasim where, to prevent an autopsy, it was burned.

She came from a religious family. Taraneh was only 19 and an only child. Her family has been threatened to keep quiet, and yet the resistance wants her story out. Why? Because here's the truth denied by Khamenei and his misogynistic, murderous regime. Your referendum has been held and you have failed your test. Taraneh and Nadeh

condemn you as the despicable killers of women. You have no legitimacy either in the eyes of the Iranian people or in the eyes of the civilized world. You are doomed by your own hands, and it is but a matter of time until your regime collapses and the Iranian people breathe free.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. SCHMIDT addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ALL JOBS ARE NEEDED NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, all jobs are needed now in the United States. We need jobs here and we need jobs now. Unemployment stands at a 26-year high at 9.5 percent.

And what is the response of Washington, D.C.? Government is increasing the costs on job creators. By the end of this week, Madam Speaker, government will have mandated that the price of the minimum wage will increase another \$0.70 per hour. This comes when teenage unemployment stands at nearly 25 percent, nearly another record. Employers expect to be cutting more minimum wage jobs as a result of this action, not adding more jobs. Teenagers in my district are going from day to day to day, many of whom have given up now that it's the end of July, looking for work. Unemployment stands at a high for teenagers. They're competing with 40-year-olds for jobs at fast food companies.

So what else does Washington do?

Washington is passing a crushing debt burden on to the 19- and 20-year-olds with our \$1.1 trillion stimulus plan. Clearly, the stimulus plan hasn't worked to create more jobs for Americans. Two million jobs have been lost since the stimulus law was passed earlier this year. The public was told that if Congress failed to pass the President's stimulus plan that we would see 8 percent unemployment. A lot of

States today would love to see 8 percent unemployment.

Try the State of Michigan. Last week they reported their unemployment stands today at 15.2 percent. We can do better, so much better. We have before and we can again.

Let's ask every business owner in America, Madam Speaker, if it would help them if we would cut their costs of doing business with the Federal Government.

Let's ask the average American if they would like to see government take less of what they make. Let's see if Washington would allow the American people the freedom to reclaim their lives, rather than waiting for a Washington bureaucrat to give them permission to move forward with their lives.

□ 2000

This last weekend, I spoke to a Minnesota businessman who has created four dozen jobs in my district. He would love to provide health care for his employees, but he simply can't afford to. Why? It's because of the government mandates.

Do his employees go without health care? No, they don't. Almost all of them have health insurance either through a spouse or they purchase health care on their own.

What would his employees like to see? They would like to have help with the full deductibility of their health care costs on their tax returns; also if they could purchase health insurance in the same way they purchase their car insurance in a competitive, free-market manner. Many of them would like to see the increased use of health savings plans. They want to own their own health insurance because they want to be able to take it with them in case they want to be able to change jobs.

Madam Speaker, fully 77 percent of all Americans respond that they prefer their present health insurance. They like what they have, and they want to keep it, but they think, Madam Speaker, that they will be shocked if they learn that they could lose their private health insurance, and they would be shocked to learn if their only option would be the government as their only health decision-making.

Page 16 of the House Democrat plan that was revealed last week of the government takeover of insurance is quite a shocker. Page 16 says that no new private health insurance policies will be allowed to be written after the passage of the bill. Government insurance is expected to be subsidized by taxpayers to the tune of 30 to 40 percent.

Approximately 114 million Americans are expected to leave private health insurance. Why? Their employers will drop the insurance because the taxpayer-subsidized plan will be 30 to 40 percent cheaper. This action will collapse the private health insurance market, and then the Federal Government will own the health provider game.

The problem is that every American will have to hope that the government will act benevolently toward their

cases. Why? Because government will be the only game in town.

We can do better, Madam Speaker. We have done better. We can take a plan that truly does represent compassion and that does represent the best interests of the American people by offering them freedom and true options.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRIELLO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. The Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to present this hour on health care. The CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. I am Representative MARCIA L. FUDGE from the 11th District of Ohio, and I am the anchor for this hour.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to our Chair, the Honorable BARBARA LEE, the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank my colleague, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio, for leading this Special Order, not only tonight but each and every Monday night, to keep our caucus and the country focused on addressing the key issues which are looming today. She consistently and is constantly on the case, making sure that we speak with one voice on the very, very critical issues which our country and the world are facing.

So thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, for your leadership.

As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I join my colleagues tonight in this very timely discussion of health care and of our efforts. Also, I want to make the case tonight for prevention as a very cost-effective strategy for health care reform. Prevention and, of course, public health should be the cornerstone of any true health care package. Prevention that takes place outside of the doctor's office can be just as important in impacting the health of Americans as health care on the back end when one ends up in an emergency room. Disease prevention is universally popular from coast to coast and across political spectra. Americans understand and appreciate the value of prevention, the value especially for reducing disease rates, for improving the quality of life and for lowering health care costs.

Yes, given the rise in deficit, we all are extremely concerned about the

costs of health care, but we also must remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. For whatever reasons, those experts who are giving us the numbers in terms of the costs don't seem to, for whatever reason, want to tell us how much we will save based on prevention as a key element and strategy in our bill.

In a new poll released last month by the Trust for America's Health, Americans actually ranked "prevention" as the most important health care reform priority. The poll also found that more than three-quarters of Americans believed the country should invest more in keeping people healthier; and by a ratio of nearly 4-1, they supported putting more emphasis on preventing disease rather than on treating people after they become sick.

People are convinced it will save the health care system money, but surprisingly, the poll also found that more than 70 percent of Americans say investing in prevention is worth it even if it doesn't save money, because it will prevent disease and it will save lives. We also know that it will save money.

Now, this is not about lecturing people about behavior. Instead, what we want to do is to remove barriers to good health that are beyond the control of most people. One role of government in health care is to provide opportunities to make it easier for people to make healthy choices. Americans are not as healthy as they could be or should be, and this is resulting in skyrocketing health care costs that threaten to bankrupt American businesses. Our workforce is less productive than it could be or it should be as it relates to competing with the rest of the world.

Tens of millions of Americans suffer every day from preventable illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, some forms of cancer, and infectious diseases which rob them of health and the quality of life that they deserve, and it also drives up health care costs. More than half of Americans suffer from at least one chronic disease. Two-thirds of Americans are obese or are overweight, and 20 percent of Americans smoke. Due to the epidemic of obesity, today's children could be the first generation to live shorter, less healthy lives than their parents. This is very scary. The Nation's economic future demands that we find ways to reduce health care costs. Helping Americans stay healthier is one of the most effective ways to lower costs and to ensure that our workforce is strong and productive enough to compete in a global economy.

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a vast majority of chronic diseases could be prevented through life style and environmental changes. For too long, the health care system has focused on treating people after they become sick instead of keeping them healthy in the first place. We need to shift from a sick care system to a health care system. Prevention can improve the quality of lives of Americans, can spare millions from needless suffering and can eliminate billions of